Infotel Ltd., M/s Hughes Tele. com (India) Ltd. M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.

(b) These private companies have been asked to complete their voluntarily committed unfulfilled V.P.T. obligations by December, 2002 against submission of additional performance bank guarantees and deed of guarantees, failing which action shall be taken as per the provisions contained in their license agreements.

(c) BSNL has provided telephone in 4,77,795 villages so far and the target fixed for the year 2002-2003 is 69,440 V.P.Ts.

(d) New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP 99) envisages to cover all the 6,07,491 villages in the country by 2002.

Telephone facilities

†5285. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) the fact in respect of providing telephone connections to all 15947 applicants by the end of the year 2002 and the actual position by the beginning of second quarter of 2002 and district-wise details of the progress in the regard;

(b) whether the target would be achieved by the end the year 2002; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government along with financial position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 10003 villages in Uttaranchal have already been provided with telecom facilities as on 31.03.2002. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). Out of 5944 villages left, 337 villages are uninhabited and remaining 5607 villages are planned to be provided with telecom facilities by December,2002. Out of 5607 revenue villages, about 1600 villages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are planned to be covered on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) by July, 2002. Remaining villages which cannot be covered by any terrestrial technologies are planned to be covered by Digital Statellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) by December, 2002 subject to availability of funds and equipment.

(c) Tender for DSPTs is under evaluation and likely to be finalized shortly and procurement will be carried out subject to availability of funds.

Statement

District-wise Villages Public Telephones in Uttaranchal State as on 31-03-2002.

District	VPTs as on 31-03-2003
Dehradun	679
Almora	1282
Bageshwar	450
Champawat	485
Pithoragarh	1172
Hardwar	483
Nainital	931
Udham Singh Nagar	672
Pauri	1414
Rudraprayag	221
Chamoli	539
Tehri	1274
Uttarkashi	401
TOTAL:	10003

Waiting list for telephone connection in Madurai and Dindigul

5286. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the waiting list for telephone connections in Madurai, Dindigul, Theni District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) Whether any new modern telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened during the current years initially in Madurai city;